



Indiana Department of Education

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

At this week's meeting of Indiana's Education Roundtable, New York City (NYC) Schools Chancellor Joel Klein shared the city's strategy to improve student success and bridge the achievement gap. Klein's presentation highlighted the importance of teacher quality and strong accountability — reform objectives also central to Indiana's efforts to increase student achievement. (To watch Chancellor Klein's presentation to the Roundtable visit <http://media.doe.in.gov/roundtable/2010-03.html>)

"In New York City, our education policies have focused squarely on putting children first," New York City Schools Chancellor Joel I. Klein said. "Putting children first means attracting and retaining the best teachers, giving principals the flexibility and decision-making power to meet students' needs, and holding schools accountable for helping all students to learn and make progress. While much work remains, students across the city have achieved steady and significant gains over the past eight years, and today, our approach to school reform is widely recognized as a national model for improving education."

Klein described NYC Schools' two-phase model, in which reforms focused first on depoliticizing and building leadership and then on empowering schools while holding them accountable. The results of NYC Schools' changes were remarkable: 33 percent more students graduated high school; the city made larger academic gains than the rest of New York State; and nearly 50 percent more NYC students enrolled in colleges and universities.

Many of the reforms championed by Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett mirror changes made under the NYC Schools' strategy. Reforms common to both state's plans include improving teacher and leader preparation and professional development, ending social promotion, implementing an A-F rating to schools, and reducing burdensome regulations.

"Chancellor Klein's presence today should bring a fierce sense of urgency to Indiana's education stakeholders," Bennett said. "New York City's success — in particular its ongoing efforts to bridge the achievement gap — underscores the need for aggressive reforms that will bring competition and accountability to Indiana education."

[State officials urge education reforms](http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=20103310334)
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Governor, educators impressed by changes, results in NYC schools

Indianapolis Star

By Andy Gammill

Posted: March 31, 2010

Gov. Mitch Daniels and state schools chief Tony Bennett on Tuesday encouraged Indiana's policymakers to adopt an aggressive education reform program like that implemented in New York City.

They invited New York City Schools Chancellor Joel Klein to their Education Roundtable meeting to explain his changes and proposals on teacher hiring, school accountability, charter school law and teacher pay.

In his presentation, Klein endorsed breaking up central office control, paying some teachers differently from others and recruiting teachers with much higher test scores and grade-point averages than the current teaching corps.

Daniels said Klein's suggestions make sense, and he would like to adopt them all.

"Everything," he said. "We're interested in all of this."

Klein presented data showing that test scores and graduation rates in New York City have been increasing, and at a much faster rate than the rest of the state's.

Daniels and Bennett have advocated education reforms that have drawn criticism from school districts and teachers groups.

Many of the proposals Klein has made in New York -- including different pay for different teachers and bonuses for teachers who get results -- have been bitterly opposed by union leaders.

At least one union leader at the roundtable, though, said that needs to change to improve education.

"We've got to do a better job," said Patrick O'Rourke, president of the Hammond Federation of Teachers. "It's time for the AFT and the NEA to open up."

New York was among the first cities to turn over control of schools to the mayor.

As chancellor, Klein has decentralized the central office, pumping \$200 million in savings back to schools. He also launched a principal leadership academy to improve the managerial skills of school leaders.

He has launched merit pay programs in which schools that have high test scores and parental satisfaction get money to divvy up among the staff as bonuses.

Schools are evaluated on an A-F grading scale that is made public, and charter schools have flourished.

Fort Wayne Community Schools Superintendent Wendy Robinson, another roundtable member, said Klein's message is key for the state to embrace.

"In Fort Wayne, we believe if you don't fundamentally change the culture and the climate ... you're not going to get anything accomplished," she said.

She applauded Klein's suggestion that too many people use excuses of race and poverty to say some children can't learn. That's something Robinson said she sees here in Indiana and a notion that is wrong.

But she also cautioned against wholesale adoption of the New York reform model in Indiana.

"One size doesn't fit all," she said. "He has the funding and the power to make that happen there. Some of us may not."

Bennett said Indiana must begin to make large changes to improve education. Klein, he said, is an "inspiration."

"We can't put this off any longer," he said. "There's a sense of urgency."